

**DETROIT, MICHIGAN**  
**YO! DETROIT**  
2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$11 Million**

**City of Detroit**  
**Employment and Training Department**  
707W. Milwaukee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Detroit, MI 48202  
Samaritan Center (313) 579-4900, ext. 2037  
Fax: (313) 579-4903  
Project Director, Donald Hurt: [dhurt@sermetro.org](mailto:dhurt@sermetro.org)

**Mission and Vision**

*Mission* – To develop Empowerment Zone youth, as well as to develop the opportunity for other Detroit youth, for success in life by creating and preparing them for opportunities for long-term employment, life skills management, education, skill attainment and personal growth and development.

*Vision* – The development of responsible, caring, productive young adults by coordinating intensive resources and efforts into the creation of opportunities and the development of youth through comprehensive services, activities, and educational and training services which make a positive impact in their lives and in the community.

**Program Overview**

The program seeks to create one-stop centers that focus on allowing youth to receive a range of services on-site at the Youth Opportunity Centers, as well as, a seamless referral system that integrates and takes advantage of resources throughout the community. Types of services and activities offered include: Occupational training programs, job readiness training, GED preparation, tutoring, academic enrichment and remediation, alternative school, sports teams and activities, cultural events, and a choir. The site has both a youth advocacy and community-employer council that participates in the program.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

- Opened two Youth Opportunity Centers with tremendous space and facilities, and co-locates partners on-site. This includes the acquisition of a former hospital campus that is now a certified one-stop center.
- A new satellite site has been developed in collaboration with B.O.U.Y 3 (a police officers association)
- Working relationships developed with juvenile justice and Job Corps. MOU in place with Job Corps.
- Leveraged \$123,000 in grant funds from the Hudson-Webber Foundation, the Thompson-McCully Foundation to expand the F. O. R. Families Collaborative Program, Marshall Fields Corp. for materials to run a pilot Robotics program, and Neighborhood Opportunity Fund grant to implement a Robotics program.
- YO! sponsored a Job Fair and over 300 youth were in attendance (1/30/02).
- YO! co-sponsored the “Winterfest Youth Leadership Conference”, along with the Detroit Housing Commission on March 1, 2002, at Northern High School; over 400 youth participated in this conference.
- YO! Employment Staff received a commitment from General Motors to make available 100 apprenticeship slots.
- YO! Hosted a pep rally at Western International High School and over 300 youth were in attendance (2/4/02).

**KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- **SER Metro Detroit** is the lead partner and implementing agency of the grant selected because of its successful history operating programs and its stature as a highly recognized Community Based Organization. SER runs the Center for Job Training at each center and enrolls participants in its alternative school, SER Casa Academy.
- **LaSED**, a community organization located in the southwest section of the Empowerment Zone, offers recreation and art programs, after-school tutoring, GED training, ESL, job preparation and placement services.
- **YMCA** serves as recreational satellites for YO!. Educational programs to occur onsite are under development.
- **CareerWorks** offers occupational training in Automotive Reconditioning and Hotel/Hospitality. Students in the Automotive Reconditioning class worked at the Detroit International Auto Show detailing cars for exhibit.
- **The Center for Job Training (CJT)** – offers occupational training in Computer Building and Repair, and G.E. D. training. Students in the Computer Building and Repair classes upon completion of the program, get to take home a new computer. CJT is now offering a 15-week Robotics Program at both YO! youth center sites.
- **Third Judicial Court (Friend of the Court)** – offers case management and support to YO! participants with family and child support issues including: bench warrants, establishing paternity, and preventive services.
- **Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute** – offers training in entrepreneurship and money management including: stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Students completing the course receive a mutual fund account in their name.
- **The Children’s Aid Society** – offers occupational training in Nursing Assistant and job placement assistance.